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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/738,387	12/17/2003	Julio F. Rodrigues	T&B 1755	7246

7590 08/01/2005

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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.A

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/738,387

Applicant(s)

RODRIGUES ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed May 25, 2005 in which Claim 11 has been amended, has been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Szegda (U.S. Patent No. 5,632,651). With regard to Claim 1, Szegda discloses a connector (10) for terminating a coaxial cable (12) comprising: a connector body (22) having a detent (52) disposed therein; and a locking sleeve (26) coupled to the connector body (22) and having at least one protrusion (50a-b) formed thereon partially encircling the locking sleeve (26) and for being received in the detent (52) when the coaxial cable (12) is terminated in the connector (10). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 2, Szegda discloses the locking sleeve (26) being detachably coupled to the connector body (22). See Figs. 4-5.

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With regard to Claim 3, Szegda discloses the locking sleeve (26) being movable from a first position (Fig. 4) loosely retaining the cable (12) in the connector body (22) to a second position (Fig. 5) locking the cable (12) to the connector body (22). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 4, Szegda discloses the detent (52) being annular. See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 5, Szegda discloses the locking sleeve (26) including a plurality of protrusions (50a-b) formed thereon and being evenly spaced about the locking sleeve (26). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 6, Szegda discloses the at least one protrusion (50a-b) including a chamfered front wall (shown in Fig. 4) for easing insertion into the detent (52). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 7, Szegda discloses the detent (52) including a rearwardly facing chamfered wall (shown in Fig. 4) that is complementary to the chamfered front wall (shown in Fig. 4) of the at least one protrusion (50a-b). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 8, Szegda discloses the at least one protrusion (50a-b) is of greater malleable composition than the connector body (22). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 9, Szegda discloses the at least one protrusion (50a-b) including a perpendicular rear wall (shown in Fig. 4). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 10, Szegda discloses the detent (52) including a forwardly facing perpendicular wall (shown in Fig. 4) for abutting the perpendicular rear wall

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(shown in Fig. 4) of the at least one protrusion (50a-b) and preventing extraction of the at least one protrusion (50a-b) from the detent (52). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 17, Szegda discloses a connector (10) for terminating a coaxial cable (12) comprising: a connector body (26) having a cable receiving end (shown in Fig. 4) and a projection (50a-b) disposed therein, a locking sleeve (22) coupled to the connector body (26) and having a rearward end (shown in Fig. 4), a smooth annular portion (34) and at least one groove (52) formed between the rearward end (shown in Fig. 4) and the smooth annular portion (34); and wherein the projection (50a-b) slides along the smooth annular portion (34) and is subsequently received in the groove (52) when the coaxial cable (12) is terminated in the connector body (26). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 18, Szegda discloses the locking sleeve (22) having a first position (Fig. 4) and a second position (Fig. 5). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 19, Szegda discloses the projection (50a-b) sliding along the smooth annular portion (34) and is subsequently received in the groove (52) when the locking sleeve (26) is moved to the second position (Fig. 5) for securing the locking sleeve (22) to the connector body (26). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 20, Szegda discloses the projection (50a-b) being an O-ring. See Figs. 4-5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Szegda (U.S. Patent No. 5,632,651) in view of Follingstad et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,967,852). With regard to Claim 11, Szegda discloses a connector (10) for terminating a coaxial cable (12) comprising: a connector body (22) having an annular detent (52) disposed therein; and a locking sleeve (26) detachably coupled to the connector body (22) having a plurality of evenly spaced protrusions (50a-b) formed thereon and for being received in the detent (52) when the coaxial cable (12) is terminated in the connector (10). See Figs. 4-5.

However, Szegda doesn't show the protrusions being spaced radially and evenly.

Follingstad et al. discloses a similar connector (Figs. 1-2) having protrusions (25) being spaced radially and evenly.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connector of Szegda by having the protrusions being spaced radially and evenly as taught in Follingstad et al. in order to improve the connector by providing a selectively latching structure with keying functions.

With regard to Claim 12, Szegda discloses the at least one protrusion (50a-b) including a chamfered front wall (shown in Fig. 4) for easing insertion into the detent (52). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 13, Szegda discloses the detent (52) including a rearwardly facing chamfered wall (shown in Fig. 4) that is complementary to the chamfered front wall (shown in Fig. 4) of the at least one protrusion (50a-b). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 14, Szegda discloses the at least one protrusion (50a-b) including a perpendicular rear wall (shown in Fig. 4). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 15, Szegda discloses the detent (52) including a forwardly facing perpendicular wall (shown in Fig. 4) for abutting the perpendicular rear wall (shown in Fig. 4) of the at least one protrusion (50a-b) and preventing extraction of the at least one protrusion (50a-b) from the detent (52). See Figs. 4-5.

With regard to Claim 16, Szegda discloses the at least one protrusion (50a-b) being of greater malleable composition than the connector body (22). See Figs. 4-5.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed May 25, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to Applicant's arguments regarding Claim 1 that the Szegda reference doesn't show at least one protrusion formed thereon partially encircling the locking sleeve, Applicant's attention is directed to Fig. 2 in which Szegda discloses at least one protrusion (50a-b) formed thereon partially encircling the locking sleeve (26).

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Protrusions 50a and 50b do not entirely encircle the locking (26) since there is a space between protrusions 50a and 50b. Therefore, it is the Examiner's opinion that Applicant's claims would read on the Szegda reference in their broadest interpretation.

In response to Applicant's arguments regarding Claim 17 that the Szegda reference doesn't show the connector body having a projection and a locking sleeve having at least one groove, Applicant's attention is directed to Fig. 2 in which Szegda clearly discloses the connector body (26) having a projection (50a-b) and a locking sleeve (22) having at least one groove (52). Applicant is reminded that tubular member 26 can be considered a connector body since the claim does not recite any distinction between feature 26 and Applicant's connector body. Furthermore, feature 22 is constructed as a sleeve, which can then be considered a locking sleeve.

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

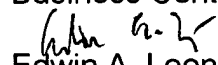
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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Edwin A. León
AU 2833
EAL
July 27, 2005


Gary Paumen
Primary Examiner